

MINUTES

**McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission
1st Floor Community Development Conference Room
September 4, 2003
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Christine Kovach
Virginia Korte
Les Conklin
Laura Fisher
Denny Carr
Howard Myers
Don Ruff
Solange Whitehead (5:35)

Absent: Erik Filsinger
Arnold Roy

Staff: Bob Cafarella
Don Meserve
Claire Miller
Cathy Eley

Visitors: Carla, Tim Bray, Bill Meyer

SELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Commissioner Korte commented that with former Chairman Smith accepting a position in South Carolina the Commission needed to appoint a new Chairperson and that the position of Vice-Chair had been vacant for several months.

Commissioner Kovach commented that if former Chairman DeCabooter's application to rejoin this Commission is accepted by the City Council that he would be the likely person to lead this Commission and suggested they wait until City Council has considered his application later this month before selecting a Chairperson.

Commissioner Myers suggested filling the Vice-Chair position and to wait until the October meeting to selection a Chairperson. The Commission concurred.

Commissioner Myers NOMINATED COMMISSIONER KOVACH FOR VICE-CHAIR. NOMINATION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Ruff, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Korte to APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2003 MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Carr, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0.

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Ruff to APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 5, 2003 MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Conklin, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0.

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Korte to APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2003 MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Carr, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0.

HIDDEN HILLS ACCESS AREA PLANNING

Mr. Cafarella stated that he would be bringing this forward over the next few months and that Dibble had been the successful bidder. Mr. Cafarella noted that Dibble was working on the details of the access area and that there had been some modifications based on community feedback and other input. Mr. Cafarella commented that they would be scheduling a Development Review Board Study Session on September 18, 2003. Mr. Cafarella explained the modifications. Mr. Cafarella also noted that the Sunrise Trail Specifications had been developed and will be going out to bid, noting that they were hopeful to have the trail and access area opened at the same time.

Commissioner Myers asked if any of the modifications affected the number of parking spaces or amenities. Mr. Cafarella stated that there are more spaces than originally planned.

Commissioner Carr asked where funding for the trail was coming from. Mr. Cafarella responded that it was funded in the Capital Project.

PROGRESS REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 7, 2003

Mr. Cafarella stated that the Mayor would sign the Proclamation for McDowell Sonoran Month that day and that they will be updating the City Council on the Commission's progress in a presentation. Mr. Cafarella commented that they would be discussing Geographic Names for Features in the Preserve and that they would be asking the Council to consider starting the process for naming one after former Mayor Drinkwater and that the Access Area Design and Site Standards Manuals would be presented as well.

Mr. Cafarella noted that the Ad Hoc Funding Committee may be asking for a special meeting with the Commission later in the month and, if that occurred, then they would be updating the City Council on the Funding Committee progress as well.

Vice-Chair Kovach suggested updating Council on Hidden Hills as well, since there had been a lot of negative press initially and that things were becoming amicable.

Commissioner Myers suggested updating Council on where the Access Areas were in the process, noting that the Commission should be updated on this as well.

Vice-Chair Kovach suggested letting Council know how many volunteer steward hours had been put in during the last quarter.

Commissioner Myers also suggested letting Council know the projects that the stewards did.

Mr. Cafarella asked the Commission to email him if they had any further suggestions that should be included in the October 7th update to City Council.

MCDOWELL SONORAN MONTH ACTIVITIES

Carla, Director, McDowell Sonoran Land Trust reported that the first event would be held on Saturday, October 5, 2003 at the Fountain Hills City Hall Open House, where they would have a booth set up. The next event would be on October 18, 2003, the Ranch Ride Limited, which is a charity bike race in DC Ranch which would benefit the Shade Foundation and the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust. On October 19, 2003 the Land Trust's Hike Season kickoff would be held. Clean-up projects are scheduled throughout the month and the fifth Preserve Steward Class was starting up.

Ms. Miller noted that the large clean-up would be on Saturday, October 25, 2003 on the State Trust Land checkerboards. Ms. Miller commented that there had been a lot of dumping in that area and that the State Land Department would be providing the roll-off containers for the clean-up.

STATE TRUST LANDS WORKING GROUP

Carla stated that she was on the Ed Fox Working Group, which is a stakeholders group that has been working on State Trust Land Reform. Carla noted that the group had hoped to have a term sheet ready prior to this Commission meeting but that it would not be ready until September 15, 2003. Carla stated that the Working Group would be presenting constitutional and statutory changes and that they would like these changes on the November, 2004 ballot which means that they will have to have the draft wording done by next month. Carla reviewed some of the proposals with the Commission.

Vice-Chair Kovach noted that the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust had asked Carla to devote the majority of her time to this effort and that the City of Scottsdale owes a great deal to Carla for attending these meetings.

Carla noted that she was not a representative for the City of Scottsdale at these meetings and that after some urging, a representative for the League of Cities and Towns joined the group a couple of months ago and that their representative is Steve Olson, from Scottsdale's Intergovernmental Relations Division.

Commissioner Carr asked if this would make the November, 2004 ballot. Carla responded that something would be on the ballot.

Vice-Chair Kovach noted that the legislative process can convolute a ballot measure and there may be a time when there will need to be citizen involvement to let their legislators know how important it is that ballot language stays clear.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cafarella commented that the Ad Hoc Funding Committee met with the City Manager last week and that they would be requesting a joint meeting with the Commission in late September or October.

Mr. Cafarella noted that the Environmental Quality Advisory Board was asking for support for the Earth Day Celebration being held at Westworld on April 16 – 18, 2004, and that he will draft a resolution to this effect for consideration on next month's agenda if the Commission so desired. Commissioner Myers expressed his support for this resolution of support. The Commission concurred.

Mr. Cafarella stated that the Environmental Quality Advisory Board would like to schedule a joint meeting with this Commission, noting that it would need to wait until after the funding issue.

PRESERVE MANGER'S REPORT

Ms. Miller stated that they have a fall project list for September and October and that on September 20th she would be attending the National Public Land Trust Conference, along with Mr. Hamilton.

Ms. Miller noted that she would be attending the Geo Cachers Round Table Meeting. Ms. Miller commented that there had been an issue with Magellan with regards to a treasure hunt that was located in the Preserve and that she had sent them a letter and was awaiting a response.

Ms. Miller stated that proposed amendments to the Conceptual Trails Plan for the Preserve from the Planning Committee would be on a future agenda.

Carla asked for an update on the County Regional Trails Plan. Ms. Miller stated that the County was moving forward with this and that it will not change what the City is doing, noting that their next meeting was in October.

Commissioner Korte asked if there would be any ramifications on the Preserve if the County Regional Trails Plan includes any trails in the Preserve. Ms. Miller responded that she didn't believe that there would be, noting that it could provide them with additional funding opportunities.

Mr. Meserve commented that they were having an intern from ASU come and help them with mapping and that they hoped to have better maps in place for the Preserve.

FUTURE EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Conklin TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR OCTOBER 7, 2003 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL ADVICE TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING NEGOTIATING FOR PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR INCLUSION IN THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE. ARS 38-431.03(A) (3) AND (A) (7). MOTION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Myers, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0.

COMMISSION COMMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Myers asked if the Commission still had charge of scenic corridors and how can a new corridor be designated. Mr. Cafarella noted that Scenic Corridors are under the Planning and Development Services Department and that it would require a General Plan Amendment with Planning Commission and City Council public hearings.

Carla noted that Ms. Miller's birthday is Friday.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Cafarella stated that the agenda would be devoted to funding and other items already mentioned.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Submitted by:

Cathy Eley, Recording Secretary

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